

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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AGRICULTURE:KREYNOLDS (DRAFT)
COMMERCE:RRODRIGUEZ (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS STATE 165350

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: INVENTORY OF CARICOM TRADE PROBLEMS

1. ONE OF THE KEY AREAS OF LATIN AMERICAN CONCERN HAS BEEN THAT OF US-LATIN AMERICAN TRADE ISSUES. THIS WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE MEXICO CITY AND WASHINGTON FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS AND BY AMBASSADOR EBERLE'S TRADE CONSULTATION TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVES IN THE TRADE FIELD, THE DEPARTMENT IS IDENTIFYING, ON A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY BASIS, THE SIGNIFICANT TRADE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED A PRE-UNCLASSIFIED

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LIMINARY INVENTORY OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE ISSUES AFFECTING

CARICOM (SEE PARA. 3). THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN GROUPED UNDER FOUR GENERAL HEADINGS WHICH INCLUDE PROBLEMS THAT CARICOM HAS WITH THE US AS WELL AS PROBLEMS WE HAVE WITH THEM. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REVIEW THE LISTING AND SUBMIT ANY ADDITIONS OR COMMENTS BY AUGUST 5.

3.A. PRINCIPAL CARICOM TRADE PROBLEMS WITH THE US:

1. CARICOM COUNTRIES WANT A CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF THE US SUGAR QUOTA, AND ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING THEIR SHARE OF THE US MARKET IF CONGRESS DOES NOT RENEW SUGAR LEGISLATION.
2. CARICOM COUNTRIES SEEK THE ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION OF OUR DUTY ON RUM WHICH HAS LONG BEEN PROPORTIONATELY HIGH VIS-A-VIS OTHER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.
3. CARICOM COUNTRIES WANT AN EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR TEXTILE EXPORTS TO US.
4. THEY WOULD LIKE AN INCREASE IN THE US DUTY-FREE EXEMPTION FOR TOURISTS.
5. THEY ARE CONCERNED OVER US COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW.

B. PRINCIPAL US TRADE PROBLEMS WITH CARICOM:

1. EXISTING REVERSE TARIFF PREFERENCES ACCORDED TO THE U.K. AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT REVERSE PREFERENCES COULD BE REQUIRED BY THE ENLARGED EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN EXCHANGE FOR CONTINUING PREFERENTIAL ACCESS FOR CARICOM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO THE EC (CARICOM OPPOSES GRANTING REVERSE PREFERENCES IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC).
2. THE US, ALONG WITH OTHER GATT MEMBERS, HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PROMPT SUBMISSION BY CARICOM MEMBER COUNTRIES OF INFORMATION REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 24 OF GATT.

C. PRINCIPAL CARICOM TRADE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES: NONE IDENTIFIED.
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D. PRINCIPAL CARICOM TRADE PROBLEMS WITH NON-HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES:

1. PROTECTION OF EXISTING SUGAR MARKETS IN THE U.K.
2. CONTINUED PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO THE U.K. FOR OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS SUGAR, BANANAS, CITRUS FRUIT, RUM, AND

CIGARS. KISSINGER

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